

6

## When Duxbury Was a Summer Resort

By ALISON ARNOLD

*(The following article, written by the late Alison Arnold, appeared in the 40th Anniversary issue of the Clipper -- Ed.)*

June is the first month of summer and it was when Duxbury hotels and boarding houses were getting ready for a busy season.

There were 2 hotels in the town -- the Myles Standish House on the Standish Shore and Powder Point Hall on Powder Point. And there were boarding houses galore, for Duxbury was a popular summer resort.

A brochure describes the Myles Standish house this way: "The Myles Standish house is situated on a bluff 300 feet from the shore of Duxbury Bay. It's half-mile beach is noted as a bathing ground, the water being warmed by passing over the flats of Plymouth and Duxbury Bays, and the total absence of an undertow making it particularly safe for women and children."

"The management of this hotel has spared neither time nor expense in making it one of the finest summer resorts in the East, having furnished for the entertainment and amusement of the guests one of the finest golf links to be found in Massachusetts, besides lawn tennis, croquet and ball grounds, sail and row boats for ocean and bay fishing, a well-equipped livery and boarding stable at moderate prices, and last, but not least, the worn-out bicyclist may find rest and refreshment with a department set aside for his special benefit, where he can have his raiment or wheel cleaned while he is preparing himself for the concert that is given nightly in the elegantly furnished Music Hall."

"The hotel is furnished with hot and cold water baths, electric apparatus and many other conveniences. Guests who are fond of fishing find this an ideal spot to indulge in this sport as is evidenced by the fact that shell and other fish are served fresh daily, having been taken from the waters of the bay by men employed at the hotel for that purpose.

Guests coming from the East and Boston can take several trains, morning and afternoon at the Old Colony Depot, Kneeland St., for South Duxbury. Those from New York and the West can take the Fall River line and

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on arrival at Fall River, take cars to Plymouth and change there for South Duxbury, arriving at the hotel in time for breakfast. A prompt and well-managed stage service is maintained between the station and hotel. The hotel will open early in June and close the latter part of September. The proprietors are L. Boyer's Sons and the manager is Charles Turner. This hotel burned and what was left was divided into 2 large houses.

An 1896 brochure described Powder Point Hall thus: "Powder Point Hall and the other buildings of Powder Point School will be open from July 1 to Sept. 9, 1896. The fine old place faces Duxbury Bay and has a beautiful view of Gurnet light and Plymouth in the distance. Several good tennis courts are provided and the boating and bathing are excellent. Careful attention is paid to cuisine and table service. Those who desire to bring their own horses can have them cared for on the place.

Trains should be taken at the Kneeland St. station where excursion tickets, good during the whole season, can be obtained for \$1.50. Briggs' line of coaches meets every Boston train at Duxbury, and takes passengers directly to Powder Point Hall.

One of the most popular boarding houses was that of Mrs. J.F. Banister on the corner of Washington St. and Shipyard Lane. It was advertised as "a perfect spot for people of quiet taste." The house burned down, and in its place, Dr. Dyer, a Plymouth dentist, built a house that was later owned by Arthur Thornhill and is now the home of the Wilfred Sheehans.

The St. George House on the corner of Washington St. and Sunset Rd. was run by George W. Scott. You could board there by the day or week and meals were served at all hours in a pleasant restaurant. This is now the home of Mrs. Thomas Roche.

Mrs. F.W. Hunt was proprietor of the Brunswick House, which is now condominiums. This was said to have "a good table, large cool rooms, a nice lawn and shade trees, and a good livery and boarding stable connected." The terms were \$1.50 per day and \$7 and \$9 per week. Later, this became the Bayside Inn and was run by Maurice Chandler.

Across the street, where Mrs. Leonard now lives, was the Franklin House, later called the Colonial Inn. The Dwinell house on the corner of Washington St. and Fort Hill Lane, was the Hollis House, and later became the Duxbury Inn. In 1894 it was managed by Charles Price, formerly of the Somerset Club in Boston.

And you could board at Mrs. Martha Hoyt's on Tremont St., where the John Dahlens now live, Mrs. L.A. Waterman's on Washington St., Mrs. H.F. Delano's on the corner of Surplus and Washington Sts. (my house), Mrs. Micsh Soule's, Miss Sally Taylor's, Mrs. Emily Howard's, Miss Anna Sears', Mrs. Porter Richmonds' and Miss Helen Nevers'.